

July 2011 Update- All things Aviation:



If you'd like additional information, please contact the City of Newport Beach.

Laguna Beach

Officials at John Wayne Airport and the local Federal Aviation Administration office are getting an earful of complaints from some Laguna Beach residents about increased airline traffic and noise, city officials confirmed.

Possible Looser Environmental Review of Next Gen Implementation

In one of the key provisions of the current FAA reauthorization bill, there is a provision that in any review of NextGen redesigns it would expedite the implementation of any change. The amendment would allow the FAA to categorically exclude from environmental review any RNAV or RNP procedure that will "measurably reduce aircraft emissions and result in an absolute reduction or no net increase in noise levels". Much depends on what is meant by "no net increase," and it's not entirely clear, but one reading is "no net increase" means some areas might experience increased noise from these procedures so long as others experience decreased noise at a level sufficient to offset the difference. So, for example, no environmental review would be required if a change in

RNP or RNAV at JWA resulted in Newport Beach suffering from increased noise, so long as that increased noise was offset elsewhere, say at Costa Mesa. Attempts to get a further explanation from the amendment's author have been unsuccessful.

For Those of You Interested in Next Generation

For those of you interested in reading a more comprehensive article regarding the FAA's NextGen and its so called unintended consequences you can go to the following link at Aviation Week and the article entitled: "Anticipating NextGen's Unintended Consequences":

http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story_generic.jsp?channel=bca&id=news/bca_0611p1.xml

As you may be aware, STREL is part of the FAA's NextGen. Funding continues to be a major issue concerning implementation.

FAA Shutdown

On a related issue as of the writing of this report, there is still the possibility that politics will trump rational behavior once again and the FAA will shut down effective midnight July 22nd. This is as a result of the continuing FAA reauthorization battle.

Helistop at 3132 Airway Avenue:

Leading Edge Aviation Services submitted for Airport Land Use Consistency review a proposal to establish a private-use helistop on an existing building at 3132 Airway Avenue in Costa Mesa. No maintenance or refueling activities will take place. The helistop will serve as a landing place to pick up and drop off passengers only. The Commission approved by a 4-1 vote, **Councilwoman Daigle** opposing, the proposal on Thursday July 21, 2011. The approval still has many hoops to jump through including but not limited to that the owner/operator complies fully with the conditions required by the FAA, Caltrans Aeronautics and with the operational parameters submitted to the ALUC and to the City of Costa Mesa.

Regional Airline Statistic

According to an airport spokesperson, airline passenger traffic continues to stagnate. Airline passenger traffic at Bob Hope Airport dropped by 6% in May compared to the same period last year, according to the latest figures — marking the third consecutive monthly drop that has pushed revenue below projections. The airport reported drops of 5% in March and 5.2% in April. Meanwhile, Ontario Airport reported a similar passenger decrease for May at 5.8%.

The passenger drop came even as the number of available seats dropped by 6.5 % in May as airlines continue to eliminate flights to keep planes closer to seat capacity, according to the report. Airport spokesman Victor Gill attributed the declines to high fuel prices and a flat economy.

Other regional airports saw dips in their passenger numbers. In Orange County, John Wayne Airport saw a 0.6% decrease in May and Ontario Airport reported a 5.8% drop. However, there was a 10.5% jump in passengers at Los Angeles International Airport in May. As of the drafting of this report the June figures for JWA are still not available.

Allegiant Air Moves Flights from Long Beach to LAX

LONG BEACH - Discount airline Allegiant has announced it will move two of its three flights out of Long Beach and to Los Angeles beginning mid-November. The airline will move its Idaho Falls and Bellingham, Wash., flights to Los Angeles International Airport on Nov. 17 and 18 respectively.

Airlines Report-

American Airlines: Revenue passenger miles rose by 1.3% and available seat miles grew by 1.8% in June 2011 compared to the same month of 2010. This resulted in a load factor decrease of 0.4 percentage points to 86.3% in June 2011 compared to 86.8% in June of the previous year.

Delta Air Lines -reported traffic results for June 2011. System traffic in June 2011 decreased 1.5 percent compared to June 2010 on a 0.2 percent increase in capacity. System load factor of 86.3 percent was 1.4 points lower than the prior year. International traffic increased 0.3 percent year over year on a 2.5 percent increase in capacity, and load factor decreased 1.9 points to 86.0 percent. Domestic traffic decreased 2.7 percent year over year on a 1.5 percent decrease in capacity. Domestic load factor decreased 1.1 points to 86.5 percent.

Southwest Airlines- The Company flew 9.6 billion revenue passenger miles (RPMs) in June 2011, compared to 9.0 billion combined RPMs flown in June 2010, an increase of 7.5 percent. Available seat miles (ASMs) increased 6.2 percent to 11.5 billion from the June 2010 combined level of 10.8 billion. The load factor for June 2011 was 83.9 percent, compared to the combined load factor of 82.8 percent in June 2010.¹

San Bernardino airport nearing commercial service, officials say

Airport executives at one point projected 500,000 passengers in 2010 and that 1million passengers were possible by 2020. Still, airport officials insist - despite a stinging report from the San Bernardino County Grand Jury on how the former base's transformation is being handled - current activity at the airport bodes well for its future and a commercial airline is just around the corner. "It's so close I can taste it," said Bill Ingraham, the airport's aviation director. Ingraham said he has a letter from a foreign airline that is ready to fly to and from Mexico twice a day as soon as the airport completes its U.S. Customs and Border Protection facility, a requirement for international flights.

Change coming to Chino Airport

CHINO - Pilots who hangar their small, private aircraft at Chino Airport are concerned about potential restrictions and higher rent that could come with the county's

¹ Note the combined factor with their merger partner AirTran.

long-term plans for its airport. San Bernardino County officials envision an increase in runway usage for corporate and commercial use, more hangars as well as the development of non-aviation businesses at the airport and in the surrounding area.

Eastvale resident Jeff Aryan said he and other pilots fear being pressured to cut their night flying. They are also concerned about having new tenants, such as retail outlets, move in to non-aviation designated areas south of the airport's runways and north of The Preserve housing development. Potential merchants moving onto airport land could also complain about noise or fear a crash, and corporate jet use could increase, Aryan said. "The real motivation for the county is to get the bigger business jets in here, because the thinking is that the bigger business jets are going to produce more revenue," said Aryan, who flies a twin-engine Cherokee four-seater. "They want it to be like a John Wayne Airport.

Is Air travel really that fast?

LONG BEACH, Calif. Six bicyclists won their race with a JetBlue flight that traveled from Burbank to Long Beach during Carmageddon weekend. Members of the bicycle group, Wolfpack Hustle, took 1 hour and 34 minutes to complete their journey from North Hollywood to Long Beach, according to the group's Twitter page. The JetBlue flight, which offered \$4 tickets for people trying to beat the 405 Freeway closure, arrived in Long Beach an hour after the bicyclists.